Full 496

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1 1.

50X1 50X1 . His professor explained that electricity produced by the Orava River Dam was to be used for electrification of the Prague-Zilina (N 49-13, E 18-44) railroad line and several new heavy industry plants.

these plants had already started operation and a part of the Slovak section of the electrified railroad line had also begun to operate; however, as of October 1953, the Orava River Dam had not produced any electricity. 50X1 there was a contract between Czechoslovakia and Hungary to the effect that, starting in 1953, the Orava River Dam would supply Hungarian plants with electricity. Since the Orava River Dam was not producing, several large Czechoslovak power plants had to cut down civilian use of electricity in order to supply power to Hungary and those new industrial plants which were supposed to get power from the Orava River Dam. In addition, all smaller 50X1 power plants had to work at highest capacity in an attempt to compensate for the loss.

2. the factory which had contracted to deliver cement for the construction of the dam apparently had determined that it could not fulfill its delivery quota if it mixed the cement correctly. Therefore, the cement was mixed in a ratio of 60% slag to 40% lime in order to meet the quota. In a normal mixing process only 20% slag is allowed. The first delivery from this factory, from which a sample was tested for elasticity and strength, was mixed correctly. Almost all the following deliveries, however, were of poor quality and contained 50X1 60% slag. even this poor cement might have been used successfully in the construction of the dam had it

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not been for the fact that the river water contained certain chemicals which, as it was later discovered, corroded and dissolved the concrete
50X1 of the dam. this problem, where certain chemicals in the water dissolve the concrete of dams, also exists in the United States.

3. The problem pertaining to the Orava River Dam was the impetus for introduction of chemistry as a major subject at the Technical University, Department of Construction Engineering. Up to that time chemistry was taught only as a minor subject.
50X1 50X1 chemistry became a major subject in the curriculum.

50X1 4. rumors that the manager of the cement factory which delivered cement for the construction of the Orava River Dam, was sentenced to life in prison. The engineer in charge of construction of the dam, thinking that he made a mistake in his calculations, committed suicide.

50X1 5. the construction site of the Orava River Dam 50X1
50X1 and was an eye-witness to emergency work which was being done by workers and soldiers of the PTP (Pomocny technicky prapor - Auxiliary Technical Battalion). soldiers un- 50X1
loading bags of cement, which they emptied into cement mixers located on both ends of the dam. Cement was mixed with some material which was unknown The mixture was then poured into cars moving on tracks laid on the top of the dam. From these 50X1
cars the mixture was poured directly down the dam wall on the water side. Similarly, cranes moving on another set of tracks poured the mixture into the water a little farther from the dam wall.
this emergency work cost a tremendous 50X1
amount of money.

6. 50X1
50X1
at a certain level the backwater resulting from the dam construction overflowed across the border into Poland where 50X1
it caused a great deal of damage.
the foundation for the large electric-power plant had not yet been built. At that time, however, he noticed that some old roads and villages were under water and a new asphalt road had been built, as well as several new bridges, connecting the remaining villages situated on nearby hills. The dam wall measured about 200 m. long and about 50X1
40 m. high. noticed a new, very modern hotel in the
50X1 area. it had been constructed by a Swiss firm. 50X1

50X1 1. Comment. for location of Orava River Dam.